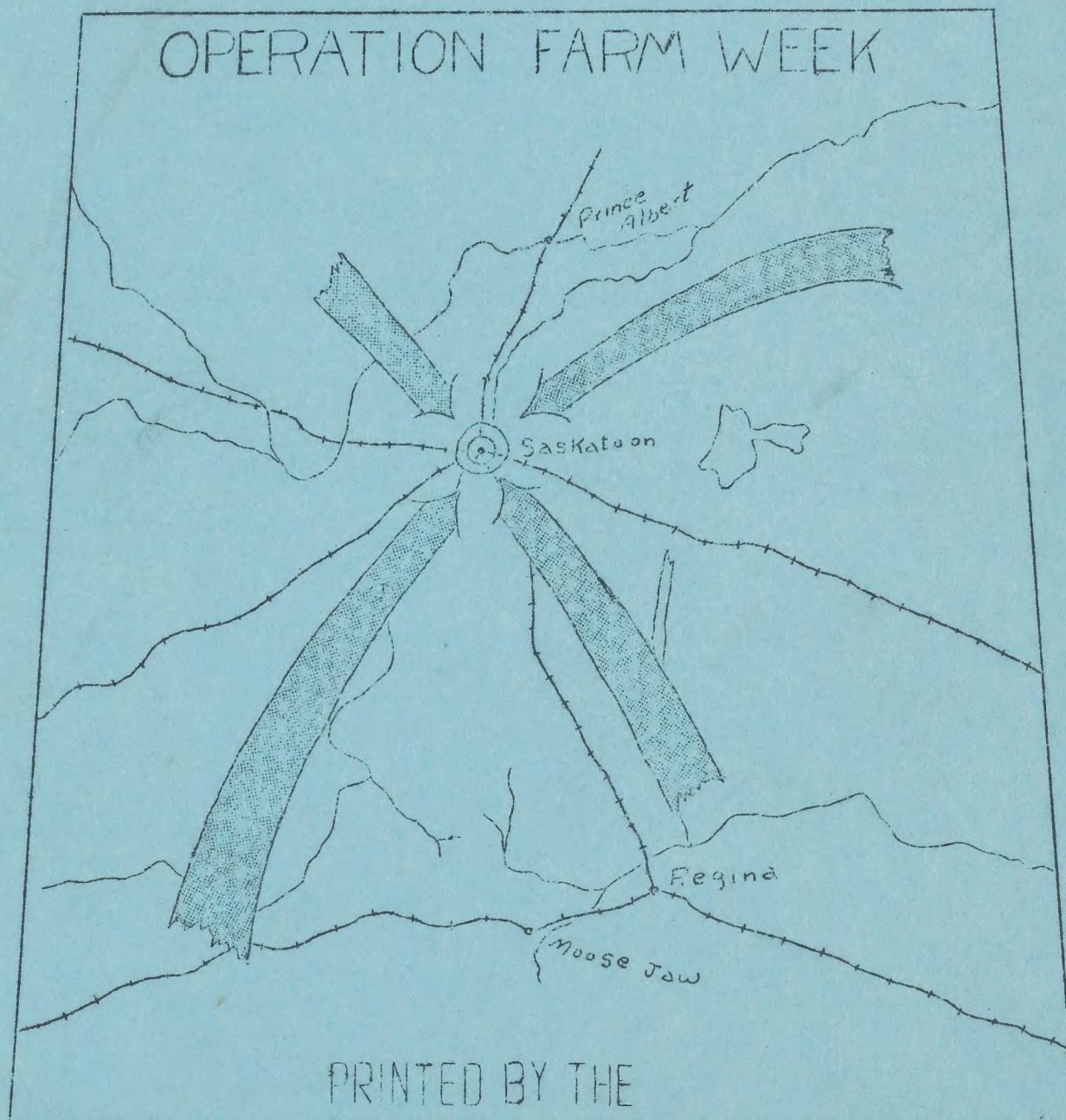


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IMPRESSIONS OF EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURE

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the Christmas issue of the Voc Ag Views an article by Dr. J.B. Harrington was published. In this issue the second and final installment of this interesting article is given.

Mechanization of Egyptian Agriculture has started. Modern American tractors, particularly John Deere and Deering are being introduced in large numbers. For example, in the province of Minya the John Deere agent said he had brought in more than 500 tractors. Plowing by tractor is done for about three dollars an acre whereas the fellah usually considers plowing by oxen costs him around 6 to 9 dollars. The tractors are mounted on steel lugged iron wheels. Rubber tires are avoided as the hard soil wears them badly and they say there is slippage. The soil is very deficient in organic matter over most of Egypt owing to the fellahin using all his straw for feeding his animals and for fuel. Practically none is returned to the soil as is so common in America.

There are also grain separators used on many of the bigger farms, mostly of Scotch or British makes. Massey Harris combines are in evidence similarly. Some are half tracked, others are all on rubber. The latest comment is that those on rubber are more efficient.

Tractors thus far have not been used much for cultivating and their hours of use in plowing are only a fraction of what they could do. As mechanization spreads in Egypt, there will be fewer draft animals needed and the extra straw available will either be used for additional dairy and meat animals, or else be plowed into the soil. If the latter was done, the use of tractors would spread still faster as the soil would be more friable and the plowing could be done more cheaply. In addition, the tractors could be used to haul cultivators for seed bed preparation and weed control.

Some wealthy farmers are experimenting on the improvement of livestock. One has a very expensive set-up for this. Another is concentrating on improving the milk yield of the buffalo by selection. Increases up to about 25% are easily secured by proper selection and proper feeding without using more feed than at present. This is considered within reach of the fellahin.

The government farms are run by the Ministry of Agriculture and vary in size from about 800 acres to several thousand. In general, they are run about as Canadian Experimental farms are run with a control staff and personnel attached to different departments and sections of the Ministry. Animal breeding is emphasized at three of these farms, horticulture at three while plant breeding is expected to have special laboratories set up at three in the near future.

In Egypt there are winter crops and summer crops. In November the wheat, barley, horse beans, berseem, clover and winter vegetables are sown. The wheat and barley varieties are of spring habit like those of the Canadian prairies but are adapted to a climate like that of Southern California. The beans are like the English broad beans. The berseem is a wonderfully adapted clover which grows like alfalfa or red clover excepting that it is an annual. Altogether these crops total about 8,000,000 acres.

The summer crops are cotton, rice, sorghum, barley, sugar cane, onions and summer vegetables. These are the warmth loving crops. They occupy about 5,500,000 annually.

There are the fruits like sugarcane, citrus, etc. The 1949-50 crop of sugarcane was 1,000,000 tons. The 1949-50 crop of citrus was 1,000,000 tons. The 1949-50 crop of cotton was 1,000,000 tons. The 1949-50 crop of rice was 1,000,000 tons. The 1949-50 crop of sorghum was 1,000,000 tons. The 1949-50 crop of barley was 1,000,000 tons. The 1949-50 crop of onions was 1,000,000 tons. The 1949-50 crop of summer vegetables was 1,000,000 tons.

IMPRESSIONS OF EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURE (cont'd)

Then there are the fruits which occupy the land continuously. There is a wonderful array of them including grapes, oranges, lemons, mangos, pears, peaches, melon, figs, dates, pomegranates, olives, and plums.

My assignment in Egypt was to help the government grain breeding programs to be more effective. I went at the request of the Egyptian Government on the recommendation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. For sixteen months I was an official of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture with the title of "Expert in Seed Breeding". My work was most interesting and I found my Egyptian Colleagues both congenial and co-operative. The Wheat Branch and the Rice-Barley Branch of the Plant Breeding Section were my particular concern.

My first job was to get acquainted with the staff of some 30 professional men and become familiar with Egypt's agricultural problems relating to grain and the work of the Plant Breeding Section in that connection. This involved travelling by train and automobile throughout the Delta and Valley of the Nile. I then had to report on my findings and make recommendations as to changes in methods, equipment, facilities and so on that I considered desirable. This was done.

From then on I sought to put the revised procedure into effect. This required lecturing to the staff, ordering machinery, writing for seed of some of the newest American varieties, detailing methods, drawing up experiments, supervising operations arranging for cooperation and liaison with other sections and agencies and meeting with many Egyptian officials as well as British, American and a few Canadian officials.

The problems I was concerned with were in some cases similar to those we have in Canada and in other cases more like problems met in the United States. Stem rust of wheat is occasionally very destructive in Egypt when susceptible varieties are grown. The Government and private breeders have now several moderately stem rust resistant varieties.

It is desirable that varieties having more complete resistance can be originated by the plant breeders. In addition high resistance to yellow stripe rust is wanted, also resistance to damage from excessive flooding in the low lands of the Delta. Greater yield is most important as Egypt's population has doubled since 1897 and is now increasing more rapidly than ever.

In corn much effort is directed toward securing varieties which will be resistant to the three destructive stem boring worms. The latest varieties of hybrid corn from all over the United States and Canada are being tested against those produced by the Egyptian Government breeder.

In barley, stem rust and a leaf spotting disease both are occupying the attention of the Government breeders and pathologists. In rice, resistance to the blast disease and some other breeding problems are quite important.

From these illustrations, it will be realized that the Egyptian farmer is looking to the governmental agencies to give him better varieties and methods. If space permitted, I would describe the many irrigation, fertilization, land cultivation and livestock production problems faced by the Egyptian land holder. You see he must do reasonably well with his crops or he and his family face starvation. Land values range from \$1000 to \$2500 an acre and rentals are as high as \$125 an acre per year. But with all that the average Egyptian fellah has only a little over an acre of land and is so poor that he and his family don't eat meat excepting about once a month or six weeks. There are 20,000,000 Egyptians and less than 6,000,000 acres of crop lands.

OF STUDIES

Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man; and, therefore, if a man write little, he had need have a great memory; if he confer little, he need have a present wit; and if he read little, he had need have much cunning, to seem to know that he doth not.

COLLEGE BRED - A four year loaf made out of the old man's dough.

STRIP TEASER - A girl unsuited in her work.

EDITORIAL PAGE



UNIVERSITY FARM AND HOME WEEK

The University Farm and Home Week has become an ever-expanding institution which many Saskatchewan farm people have now come to regard as a regular part of their yearly activities. Each year seven hundred to eight hundred rural folk attend the programs during that busy week.

Farm and Home Week evolved from the deep economic ferment of the last depression. Previously a number of agricultural societies had held their annual conventions separately, but because of the depression, it was seen that, of necessity, these annual meetings had to be discontinued. This was done in 1932. In 1933, during the apex of the depression the idea of combining these various societies and more particularly their yearly social and business functions was advanced. It was thus felt that expenses could be reduced and the attendance increased. Considering the unfavorable circumstances at that period this first attempt at a Farm and Home Week was completely successful.

The agricultural groups participating in that first "week" were: the Saskatchewan branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association, The Field Husbandry Association, the Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies Association, the Livestock Convention and the Dairy Convention. These latter two have since reverted to their former practice of holding their gatherings separately. Several new additions have been made, however, to round out the activities. The Agricultural College Graduates Association, the Certified Potato Growers, special meetings for Farm Women, and the Provincial Seed Fair, have combined their programs for Farm and Home Week.

Farm and Home Week has as its purpose the interrelation of separate programs so as to provide a sort of collective inspiration for farm citizens. It possesses advantages both for the farm and for the University. Farm people may visit their university and see its buildings and its staff who are vitally concerned with Saskatchewan agriculture. So great has been the enthusiasm over Farm and Home Week and its opportunities that thought has been given to extending it to a ten day period.

This year Farm and Home Week begins Monday, January 8 at 9:30 and ends on Friday, January 12 at 4:30. On Monday and Tuesday the Saskatchewan Agricultural College Graduates' Association holds its annual meeting and lectures. Tuesday is also the day delegated to the Saskatchewan branch of the C. S. G. A. which is holding its twenty-second yearly meeting. Wednesday is occupied by the thirteenth annual convention of the Saskatchewan Field Husbandry Association and by activities of the Saskatchewan Certified Potato Growers Association. On Thursday and Friday the Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies attend their forty-third annual convention.

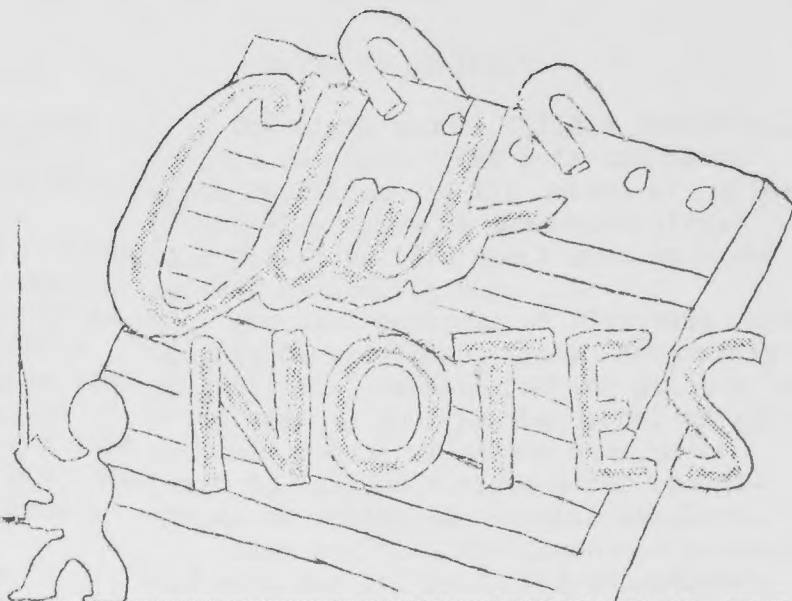
A number of guest speakers, prominent men who are closely allied with agriculture, are to be heard. They include W. T. G. Wiener, secretary of the C. S. G. A.; Dr. John F. Booth, head of the Dominion Economics division at Ottawa; J. Vallance, a member of the Board of Grain Commissioners, and J. E. Brownlee, president of the U. G. G. Co. In addition there is to be a special program and a panel discussion on "Conservation and Land Use".

★ MECHANICS

★ AGRONOMY

★ LITERARY

★ LIVESTOCK



AGRONOMY

The members of the Agronomy club wish to take this opportunity to express our hope that everyone had a good holiday.

After our holidays we come back to start a fresh on our club work. All our projects were finished before Christmas, so we start on new work. The club has been divided into small project committees and next week they will start work on their new projects.

The executive of the club met with our faculty advisor Mr. Mitchell the head of the soils department, to discuss the system by which points are given towards the Forsner trophy. This year we hope to regain this prize. After going over the scoring chart we think we have a very good chance of doing it.

SOCIAL

Well, gang, the first term of 1950-51 is gone and done with and I think we can say that it has been a successful one as far as social activities go. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each one of you who have helped to make our dances and socials what they were, especially to the other members of the social directorate. It is my sincere hope that the functions of the term to come will be even better.

Our Christmas dance was a bang-up affair; all seemed to enjoy themselves and the members of the faculty present also complimented us on our efforts. On Monday January 8 the School of Agriculture supplied some entertainment at the Ag - Grade reunion in the form of recreational films and a few selections

by the male chorus. Films were also shown on the previous Sunday evening. Lunch was served by the students after the School held for the Grades.

On Friday January 12, commencing at 8:30 P.M. there will be a dance in the School Auditorium. Let's make it the best yet. It is hoped that a student-faculty whist drive will be held in the very near future. Other major functions in the coming term are the Little Royal Variety Show March 7, The Little Royal Dance at the Club 400 March 8, and last and most important The Graduation banquet and dance at the Bossborough on March 29.

Good luck in the coming term follows.

LITERARY

The freshman debates will be held in Room 1 Manger building on January 9, when our school team consisting of Curtis Bee and Ruben Ziolkowski will be debating against W. A. S. A. We wish Curtis and Ruben the best of luck and ask the boys to turn out to give the team some moral support.

The School group gave a performance at the Agriculture Graduates, Farm Week program on the night of January 8. They will also present a radio broadcast on February 8.

LIVESTOCK

As you all know the 19th Annual Farm week takes place this week from the 8th to the 12th. The big days for the Livestock Club will be Thursday and Friday.

Thursday morning the boys tending the dairy cattle will meet in the Livestock Pavilion at 8 A.M. to groom their animals. The beef cattle, sheep and pigs will be groomed on Thursday afternoon.

Throughout this busy week our own School of Agriculture Building plays a prominent part as a gathering place for the many visitors.

No doubt as you have come to realize Farm and Home week is a gigantic undertaking. A good deal of credit should go to Professor Rayner and his co-workers of the extension Department who have been instrumental in the organization. We wish them every success not only for this year but also for the many Farm and Home weeksthat will be held in future years.

Our sixth annual "Little Royal" will be held on March 7 and 8 in the Livestock Pavilion and the School of Agriculture Bldg, here at the University. Plan to attend this great show on March 8 as this is the big day.

The show consists of Livestock Showmanship Competitions, Grain Showmanship Competitions, various Judging classes and a big variety Show in the School of Agriculture Auditorium on the evening of March 7, besides various other competitions including Educational displays.

Come and view the Livestock yourself, and also see the Grain and Educational exhibits that the students in the School of Agriculture have to offer you in their annual Exhibition.

Stuart McKenzie,
Little Royal Director.

Livestock Club Report (con'te)

Friday morning, the day of the demonstration, at 8 a.m. the horses will be shined up.

Everyone will be over at the pavillion at 10 o'clock to receive instructions for the afternoon.

The show starts at 1:30 p.m. and we know that everyone will turn out to see it.

MECHANICS REPORT

On Thursday the somewhat dismal routine of classes began as the second term ground to a start. Mixed emotions of joys and sorrows hung in the atmosphere as "the marks" were received, and as the fellows recovered from their "rest" during the vacations.

The Mechanics Club held no meetings on any of the divisions during Thursday afternoon but it will be in full operation next week. Instilled with that New Year's spirit, the members feel that they are going to buckle down and combine their efforts into making a real success of our Thursday afternoon club meetings.

To all of you from all of us we wish to extend our Best wishes for a prosperous and happy New Year.

EPITAPH TO A DENTIST

Stranger! Approach this spot with gravity!
John Brown is filling his last cavity.

ALUMNI

SARS NAGLE - is up for Farm Week. He tells us that he is putting in his spare time building a boat.

AL LINDEATER - is also taking in Farm Week. He got in a few games of Curling in the Ag Grad Bonspiel as well as a few bridge hands.

RALPH SCHLECHTER - appeared on Monday driving his red Ford. He and his brother are taking in the Farm Week lectures.

GROVER RICHARDT - called in while the Kmas issue was being stapled. He is still in the dairy business near the City.

JIM HOWSE - is kept quite busy at home but was able to make it down to Farm Week.

GLENN ELSTEN - was able to tear himself away from his cattle for a week or so and is renewing acquaintances here.

SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD

I think that I shall never see
A billboard as lovely as a tree.
Indeed, unless the billboards fall
I'll never see a tree at all.



DORM AMBLE



Newly Wed: "Did you make these biscuits with your own little hands?"

Bride: Why yes, darling.

Newly Wed: Well who in H--- helped you lift them out of the stove?"

Snoring: a form of sheet music.

Last week we received a copy of the Agreement, a monthly paper printed by the School of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota. It is interesting to see and compare other papers with our own.

They are hard drinkers. Their water was cut off on Monday and they didn't discover it until the following Saturday.

Man: a person who falls in love with a face and makes the mistake of marrying the whole girl.

We got word while printing that the Freshman Debates between the Voc Ags and Womens Arts and Science had been postponed from Tuesday until Thursday of this week.

Farmer: "Miss the old cuspidor since it's gone.

Wife: You always did miss it. That's why it is gone."

Seems as though Munro has started something. Several bushy growths are now appearing. Even our eminent pianist Mike Procco has developed a pubescent upper lip.

Bald Head - stick a finger in each ear and go bowling.

Mother: "Where do bad little girls go?"
Daughter: Most everywhere."

Our "reporter at large", Art Munro, has acquired a walking stick to assist him on

his homeward wanderings during the wee small hours of the morning.

There was a faith healer of Deal
Who said "Although pain ain't real,
If I sit on a pin
And I puncture my skin
I dislike what I fancy I feel!"

Joe Elvey and Joe Linnell are looking for a competent referee to toll them who won the duel. A number of innocent bystanders had to look twice to see who the bespattered warriors were.

Father: "Don't you think that new man of yours is a bit fast?"

Daughter: Yes, Father, but I don't think he'll get away."

From now on, anyone who sees a long brown envelope in his mail box will be afraid to pick it up. Seems that the marks are a little lower this term but we hope everyone will come through with flags flying in the next set.

EPITAPH

Stranger pause as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, soon you must be
Prepare for death and follow me.

ANSWER

The stranger paused and wrote below-
To follow you I am not content
Until I know which way you went.

There was a young man of Devizes,
Whose ears were of different sizes;
The one that was small
Was of no use at all,
But the other won several prizes.

Punch - surplus gone to waist.

SPORTS



Well everybody's back to work after a stimulating holiday and are ready to really get in there and win some games.

Basketball:

In the first term the basketball team won only one game (by default) but here's hoping that they do better from now on.

The first game this term was played on Monday 8th against Eng. (B) at 8:00 p.m.

Hockey:

Last Friday both the hockey teams had a good practice at Rutherford with most of the players present.

The hockey schedule will be starting this week and if the two practice games were an example the Voe Ag teams should have lots of rooters backing them.

Curling:

The curling draw started again on Monday. There are still quite a few Voe Ag rinks putting up stiff opposition. Let's see some Voe Ag rinks get in there and win some prizes. What do you say fellows? Friday and Saturday of last week there was an Ag Cup tournament at the Hill Curling Rink. There was quite a few teams entered from the school.

Bowling:

Bowling started again on Saturday afternoon. The Standing of the teams are as follows:

Wild Cats.....	23	points
King Pins	20	"
Speed Balls	19	"
P's and B's	17	"
Badgers	16	"
Hicks	16	"

Bowling (cont'd.)

The 4 Aces.....	16	points
Bob Cuts	15	"
Tommydunn	13	"
Haystack	12	"
Practical Ramblers	11	"
Pink Hopplars	11	"
Challengers	9	"
Alley Cats	9	"
Torons	7	"
Bobcats	6	"
Dead Bents	6	"
Pink Pounders	6	"
Graceland	5	"
Eagles	4	"

A New Year Resolution

Have you made a resolution
For the New Year that's ahead?
Do you plan to go on living
In the same old way instead?
Have you thought the matter over
Or conversed it with a friend?
First consider each day brings you
One day closer to life's end.

Has the year that now is ending
Brought contentment and repose?
Or has it brought you failures
Which no other person knows?
Have you striven for advancement
Which proverbial corners hide?
Did you strive with perseverance
When your efforts were defied?

If the old year brought you trials
Do not hang your head in shame;
Don't start finding fault with others,
Maybe you're the one to blame.
Bid farewell to all past failures
Which the old year brought to you;
Make a New Year's resolution;
Pray for grace to see it through.

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